

RIVER CURRENTS

SECOND COAST GUARD DISTRICT - JANUARY, 1980



Two post commanders for the veterans' organization Amvets look on as LCDR John H. Burger and SN Frederick Sanders fix a line to a wreath commemorating Pearl Harbor Day, Sunday, December 2nd. The boat was provided by Base St. Louis, and the coxswain was BM3 Thomas Oleszkowicz. The wreath was towed out into the center of the Mississippi River and released.

The ceremony, held on the St. Louis waterfront just below the Gateway Arch, was attended by representatives of nearly every St. Louis area veterans' organization. LCDR Burger was the keynote speaker at the ceremony.

Time Bomb In Your Pocket

Story by V. A Friend,
2nd District Safety Manager

There is the same amount of force in a butane lighter when it explodes as there is in approximately three (3) sticks of dynamite. Our bodies are not able to cope with such force.

During recent months two fatal accidents occurred involving welders who had a butane lighter in their pockets while engaged in welding operations or processed. One man had a lighter in his shirt pocket. A spark which was generated during the welding process landed on the lighter. This spark burned through the lighter shell exposing the fluid which exploded, killing the man instantly.

The other welder had a butane lighter in his pants pocket. The lighter was hit by sparks and exploded. This meant amputation, ending in death later on.

NEVER carry a butane lighter on your person if you are engaged in hot work such as welding, cutting burning or when using a butane or gasoline type of torch for **ANY** purpose.

NEVER carry a butane lighter on your person when you are using any other spark producing tool or equipment. Sparks or hot slag and butane vapors do not mix. The incidents cited above attest to this.

Medivac

There may not be many medical evacuations done on the rivers by the Coast Guard, but when the call for one came December 10, Group Tennessee River was ready.

At two in the morning RM2 Michael Dill got a call from a commercial towboat, asking for help with a man who might be having a heart attack. The man's arm was numb and discolored.

RM2 Dill called the commanding officer of Group Tennessee River, CWO4 J.B. Griggs. "Launch a boat im-

mediately," he said.

It might be a good idea to have some medical know-how on this one, Dill thought. He called HM3 David "Doc" Williams, who only lives about a mile from the station.

Williams was enroute when the CO called back. "Send Doc along on this one," were his terse instructions.

"He's already on his way," replied Dill.

"We don't do many of these," explained Williams later. "But we do them

right."

In fact, it was the first medical evacuation in memory of the group members River Currents talked to.

BM1 Gary Hollander and SN Eric Sorensen got the boat underway with "Doc" aboard, and in minutes the stricken man was being loaded into a Henry County Ambulance RM2 Dill had called down to the Coast Guard docks. The trip took less than ten minutes. Mission accomplished for Group Tennessee River.

Hot Volley Ball At Granite City

Although it may have been cold outside the action inside the Granite City Army Gym was hot. Four teams of Coast Guard personnel played fast and furious volleyball for nearly five hours. "Boonie" rules were in effect for the games, and the referees weren't always around, so any disputes were "debated." But fun was had by all players, who intend to have another tournament soon. The out of town teams, Group Lower Mississippi River from Memphis, outplayed the home teams and won the tournament, spiking Marine Safety Office St. Louis into the ground and easily taking the best three out of five games.



ETCM J. Thomas puts the ball up while SK1 A. Cobb prepares to back him up.

Teams included:
2nd District Office:
YN1 J. Gaines
YN2 M. Whisler
YN2 R. Parker
YN2 B. O'Sha
YN2 R. Boswell
YN1 C. Hambrick
YN1 D. Jamail
YN1 J. Mooney
SK1 A. Cobb
YN2 R. Woolsey
ETCM J. Thomas
CW02 C. Resmussen

MSO St. Louis
BMC D. Hughes
MK3 A. Boefer
GM2 T. Bain
YN3 J. Tucker
YN2 T. Grey

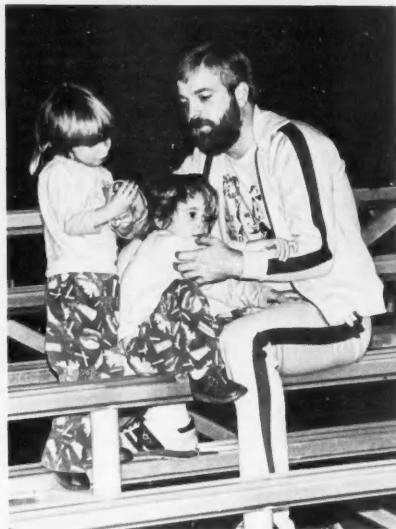
Group Lower Miss
SK1 Bob Weakley
RM1 J. Cornett
ET2 A. Pacheco
ET3 R. Heckel
EM3 R. Williams
YN3 W. Lee (coach)
Group Lower Miss Hungry:

We Need More Competition, Says Coach Lee "Coach" YN3 Bill Lee of Group Lower Mississippi River was feeling mean after a week-end of grinding St. Louis Area Coast Guard volleyball teams into hamburger. "We're looking for some competition," he said in a phone interview. "We've beaten ANFAC Memphis, and we've beaten the MSO here, and now we'd like some new fields to conquer."

Lee issued a challenge to all 2nd Coast Guard units: "We'll go almost anywhere to play," he insisted. "I'd like to see a 2nd District tournament this winter, if it could be worked out. Maybe play all the groups. But we'll play almost anybody."



MSO St. Louis puts the ball up against a district team and scores. Photo by SN David Graf.



YN2 Barry O'Sha chats with some of the younger volleyball fans at the tournament.

A Well Traveled Man

EM1 Terry Adams is a well traveled man. Last summer he covered more than 11,000 miles and told more than 100,000 people the safe boating story. EM1 Adams went to just about every activity in the 2nd District that would attract boaters. Regattas, fairs, boat shows, you name it, and your chances

were good that EM1 Adams would be there with his handfull of safe boating fliers.

For this kind of relentless pursuit of boating safety, EM1 Terry Adams was awarded the Coast Guard Achievement medal, December 16, 1979, at Base St. Louis.



YN2 Thomas Grey and YN3 Joseph Tucker watch a play being made. The pair were part of MSO St. Louis' team.

Coast Guard Exchange

Looking for a hall to hold a banquet? Or a pair of skivvies? Base St. Louis Non Appropriated Fund Activities (NAFA) can help you out.

You probably already know about the exchange. You may not know that you can mail order some merchandise through the exchange. There is also a layaway program that lets you buy items with a minimum down payment and monthly payments until you've paid for the thing.

The exchange telephone number is: 314-351-7509 or FTS 279-4697 (ask for the exchange)

There is a package store on the Coast Guard base that carries over 150-different brands of liquor and wines. Items not usually stocked can be special ordered with a minimum purchase of one case. Their phone # is 314-353-8881. Sorry—no mail order service from the package store, because of federal regulations.

Lunch, a quick one, or a catered party for up to fifteen people are some of the services available at the Service Club. Telephone 314-353-9670.

For those extravaganzas with a cast of thousands you may want to consider the Function hall. Actually there is only seating for 86 or standing room for 105-people but whatever the occasion, more information on the function hall and its services is available by calling 314-353-8881 for details and prices.

The hours of operation for the NAFA units are as follows:

HOURS OF OPERATION

EXCHANGE	PACKAGE STORE	SERVICE CLUB
MON-THURS - 1000-1700	MON-THURS - 1000-1300	MON-THURS - 1100-2300
FRIDAY - 1000-1800	FRIDAY - 1000-1800	FRIDAY - 1100 0100
SATURDAY - 0900-1400	SATURDAY - 0900-1400	SATURDAY - 1100-0100
		SUNDAY - 1300-2000



SS3 Daniel Mader from ANFAC Paris receives a certificate of course completion from CDR J. D. Adams, Chief 2nd District Comptroller Division, while SSCM V. M. Seriosa and food production manager Richard Klinkerfuss of the Marriott Hotel, look on.

Mader is the second graduate of this unusual 30-day training program. The program, master-minded by SSCM Seriosa, allows a Coast Guard SS to work and learn in the Marriott's kitchen's in St. Louis, at no expense to the Coast Guard.

"A comparable course given by the culinary institute costs \$2,000 for six weeks," explained production manager Richard Klinkerfuss. (See November River Currents for details on the course and enrollment.)

Uniform Fit?

Highwater isn't due in the 2nd District until spring, so you might want to consider taking a look at the hem of your trousers to be sure your uniform isn't starting the flood season already.

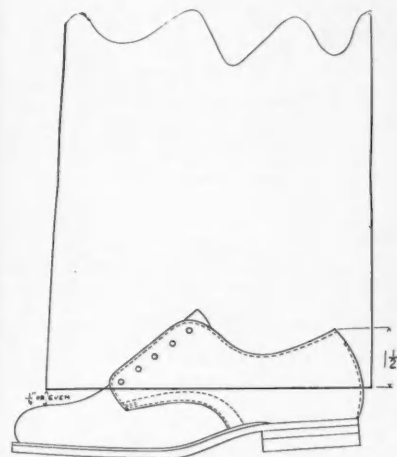
The Commandant is writing standards for uniform trousers. Guidance has already appeared (See diagram.)

To make sure your pants have the right fit, tell your tailor the following:

a. The trousers should be fitted while wearing a belt. Make sure the trousers are at the hip area where they are normally worn and are most comfortable.

b. The hem should be marked at the front of each trouser leg so that the trouser fall straight and unbroken just short of the top of the shoe.

c. A separate mark for hemming should be made at the back of each trouser leg to allow the trouser to fall 1½" below the back of the shoe. This may make a slight angle or slope from the front to the rear of the hem necessary.



Welcome Aboard

River Currents welcomes the following personnel to the 2nd District:

BM3 T. C. Roe — MSO Memphis

BM3 S. M. Shrum — MSO St. Louis

BM3 W. H. Pitts — ANFAC Sallisaw

EM3 C. C. Kilgore — Group Lower Mississippi River

District Commander's Corner

I have almost achieved my goal of visiting all Second District units prior to January 1980. I have talked to a lot of people and have heard many good ideas. During my conversations with you I have mentioned, on many occasions, that the Commandant, Admiral Hayes, is well aware of our problems and is doing his very best to correct them. I have recently learned of one such proposal that is being considered by him to assist home owners at transfer time. Many of you will be interested in it. Now, before I provide further details, I must emphasize that the following is in the proposal stage and will not become effective unless it is enacted into law by Congress.

As homeowners are well aware, transfer time can be traumatic. In addition to other problems, homes must be sold and new ones purchased. As you know, tight money makes it hard to find qualified buyers for your home and makes it hard for you as a buyer to purchase a home at the new station. Interest rates are high.

The proposal would help out as follows:

1. Reimbursement for selling expenses.
2. Reimbursement for home purchasing expenses.

3. A mortgage differential allowance to compensate for increased costs involved in buying a new home at higher mortgage interest rates.

4. A home buying service contracted through a specialized commercial company to provide for equity advances at the current market value of the home.

5. Plus other features.

I pass the foregoing along to you so that you are aware of the work for our benefit which is being done at Headquarters. As I obtain more information on these and other matters, I will pass it on.

By the way, it is true that the foregoing would benefit the homeowner. However, Headquarters is pursuing initiatives which will help other groups also. They will be reported in later issues.

Meanwhile, if you have any good ideas which might help in operations or in our day-to-day living, send them in. You can submit a beneficial suggestion, and possibly earn some extra money, or you can send your suggestion care of the editor of River Currents. This is a team effort. Let's pool our "brain" resources.

Coast Guard Safari

The Coast Guard will give you five days off to go on a safari. The only catch is that you have to be hunting for a house.

According to an article in the Commandant's Bulletin (3 Dec 1979, #49-79) the office of personnel has established a new policy allowing permissive orders for house hunting trips. Five days can be allowed for the trip, and may be combined with leave or liberty to extend the total period available for real estate shopping.

Commandant (G-PS-7/TP41)
U.S. Coast Guard
Washington, DC 20593
FTS # 426-1354

Champus Up-Date

Inquiries and other correspondence to the Office of the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services (OCHAMPUS) should be sent to that office's new address: OCHAMPUS, Aurora, Colo. 80045.

Since letters to the old address (Denver, Colo. 80240) will be forwarded for only a short period, CHAMPUS officials urge beneficiaries and others corresponding with OCHAMPUS to use the new address immediately.

CHAMPUS claims should not be sent to the above address. Claims should continue to be sent to the CHAMPUS contractor who processes claims for the area where the medical care was received. Information about these addresses can be obtained from the CHAMPUS advisor at a uniformed service medical facility or by writing to OCHAMPUS.

Coasters



DISTRICT COMMANDER

RADM Norman C. Venzke

Chief of Staff

CAPT J.W. Leadbetter

Public Affairs Officer

LTJG Louis M. Farrell

Assistant Public Affairs Officer

PAI Roy Compton

Editor

PA2 Dennis H. Post

Photojournalists:

PA3 Dona R. Frank

SN David Graf

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